

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy and Water Development  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Simpson  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy and Water Development  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

We write to you highlighting the importance of providing additional funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the Department of Energy to assist efforts to discover, and locate, abandoned oil and gas wells across the country.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included much-needed funding for states to plug or cap abandoned wells. Abandoned wells can pollute local groundwater and release methane and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, but there were limited options for remediation until this we drafted and passed this legislation in a bipartisan manner. We strongly supported this critical investment that will create good-paying jobs and help address the long-lasting legacy of energy development across the country for years to come.

Congress included funding for the Department of Energy to assist Federal land management agencies, States, and Indian tribes to identify and characterize undocumented orphaned wells. We believe this work is absolutely critical to the long-term success of the overall initiative and deserves additional funding through the regular appropriations process. The estimates for the total number of abandoned wells in our country varies widely, from approximately 700,000 to 3 million. This underscores the concerning reality that we do not have good records on many of these wells and if we cannot locate them, our efforts to address this environmental blight will be piecemeal. A recent effort undertaken by the National Energy Technology Laboratory surveyed land in Washington County, PA and found that nearly two-thirds of the abandoned wells they found were not in the state's database. The Department of Energy is uniquely equipped to assist with the work of finding these wells, and ensuring the agency has the necessary resources to find these wells as soon as possible will pay future dividends as Congress considers additional funding for this program.

Accordingly, we urge the committee to include not less than \$30 million for this important work. We greatly appreciate your continued efforts to improve the sustainability of our nation's energy sector. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you on this commonsense issue.

Sincerely,



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Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress  
Chair, Subcommittee on  
Energy and Mineral  
Resources



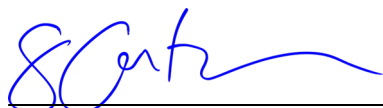
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress